

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 10123 010803Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 010500Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2793

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 10123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: ICJ REVIEW ARTICLE AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UN DEMARCHE  
ON INDONESIAN POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: (A) STATE 176054, (B) STATE 176055, (C) JAKARTA 10033,  
(D) JAKARTA 7690

1. SUMMARY. INDONESIAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER BELIEVES  
POLITICAL DETAINEE'S LETTER PUBLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION OF JURISTS COULD BE GENUINE BUT IS EXAGGERATED  
AND OUT OF DATE IN KEY RESPECTS. INDONESIANS TELL US  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS MADE ANTI-GOI DEMARCH IN UN.  
RECENT ICJ AND AI INITIATIVES, WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT EFFORTS GOI IS UNDERTAKING TO OVERCOME DETAINEE  
PROBLEM (SEPTTEL), HAVE, WE FEAR, REINFORCED LOCAL FEELING  
THAT INDONESIANS CAN GAIN NOTHING BY COOPERATING WITH  
EITHER ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. INDONESIAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER BUYUNG NASUTION (WHO WAS  
IN PRISON FROM 1974-76) SAID TAPOL LETTER (REF A) AT FIRST  
IMPRESSION SEEMED TO BE GENUINE. SALEMBA PRISON INMATE  
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PAGE 02 JAKART 10123 010803Z

CONVICTED FOR ROLE IN 1974 RIOTS, WHO WAS OUT ON "WEEK-END  
PASS", CONFIRMED TO NASUTION THAT ENGLISH SPEAKING DETAINEES  
HAD BEEN REMOVED AND NEW PROVISIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED JUST  
PRIOR TO ICRC VISIT AS STATED IN LETTER. (COMMENT: WE  
HVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THESE INCIDENTS REPORTED  
REF D, WHICH MAY HAVE LED KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF SUDOMO  
TO SUSPECT ICRC HAD LEADKED INFORMATION TO TAPOL.) NASUTION

SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY FELLOW INMATES WHEN HE WAS IN PRISON OF SOME OF THE INDIVIDUAL TORTURE CASES MENTIONED IN TAPOL LETTER. THESE HAD ALL ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED, HOWEVER, DURING PREVIOUS DECADE. NASUTION SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO TORTURE SINCE 1970. HE BELIEVED STATISTICS CITED IN TAPOL LETTER TO BE HIGHLY EXAGGERATED.

3. IN TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, INDONESIAN SOCIALIST LEADER AND FORMER DETAINEE SOEBADIO CONFIRMED THAT INFORMATION IN LETTER HAD SOME SUBSTANCE ON BASIS PAST PRACTICES BUT SITUATION NOW IMPROVED AND "SOME" BEING RELEASED. SOEBADIO MADE POINT ACCESS TO PRISONERS IS QUITE LOOSE AND IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT GET SUCH LETTER OUT.

4. AS DEPT IS AWARE, EMBASSY HAS HAD ACCESS TO ICRC REPORTS OF PAST VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS (1971, 1974, 1977. THESE REPORTS DO NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE TAPOL LETTER'S MORE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT TORTURE AND NUMEROUS DEATHS FROM MALNUTRITION ARE TAKING PLACE.

5. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED TO ADMIRAL SUDOMO AND TO CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STAFFER LIM BIAN KIE THAT ICJ BE INVITED TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN INDONESIA. SUDOMO DID NOT REPLY BUT LIM STATED GOI FIRST INTENDED TO REQUEST YAP THIAM HIEN, PROMINENT INDONESIAN LAWYER, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND MEMBER BOARD ICJ TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JAKART 10123 010803Z

DISCUSS QUESTION WITH ICJ HEADQUARTERS GENEVA.

6. LIM BIAN KIE INFORMS US THAT GOI UN DELEGATION HAS RECEIVED JULY 15 LETTER FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL CALLING ATTENTION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER OF JUNE 30 TO SEC GEN CHARGING THAT GOI HAS GROSSLY VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH ARRESTS FOLLOWING JANUARY 1974 ANTI-TANAKA RIOTS IN JAKARTA, CONTINUED DETENTION OF COMMUNIST POLITICAL PRISONERS AND FORCED LABOR. THESE ALLEGATIONS WILL REPORTEDLY BE DISCUSSED IN AUGUST Q MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING COMMITTEE. LIM HAS WRITTEN AI SECRETARY GENERAL ENNALS TO POINT OUT ERRORS IN AI CHARGES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION USUN OR DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.

7. COMMENT: SEPTTEL REPORTS LATEST GOI PLANS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND EFFORTS TO REACH UNDERSTANDING WITH ICRC TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS. WHILE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT THE INDONESIANS ARE INNOCENT OF ALL THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST THEM BY TAPOL, ICJ AND AI, WE FEEL THAT THEY ARE BEING UNFAIRLY CATEGORIZED AS MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR AT MOMENT WHEN THEY ARE IN FACT MAKING GENUINE EFFORTS TO SOLVE REMAINING

PROBLEMS. EMPHASIS CAN, WE BELIEVE, BE APPROPRIATELY PUT ON PRESENT RATHER THAN PAST. OUR ABILITY TO PERSUADE THE GOI TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS ICJ AND AI IS SEVERELY HAMPERED WHEN THEY PROCEED TO PUBLISH CHARGES WHICH THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN INDONESIANS PRIOR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS HAVE, WE FEAR, REINFORCED FEELING OF GOI LEADERSHIP THAT ANIMUS TOWARDS PRESENT GOI REGIME IN BOTH AI AND ICJ IS SO STRONG THAT INDONESIANS CAN GAIN NOTHING BY COOPERATING WITH EITHER ORGANIZATION.

8. BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY EMBASSY RELATIONSHIP NASUTION AND SOEBADIO IT IS ESSENTIAL THEY BE PROTECTED.  
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PAGE 04 JAKART 10123 010803Z

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## Message Attributes

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